



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.1635 | FAX (517) 373.3300

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Contact: Kirk Hanna
(866) 305-2134

Van Woerkom Applauds Higher Education Budget

GVSU receives an additional \$13 million to fund new per pupil higher education policy

LANSING – Senator Gerald Van Woerkom, R-Norton Shores, today applauded the actions of the Senate Higher Education Appropriation Subcommittee for allocating an additional \$13 million to Grand Valley State University and establishing a new policy for funding higher education in Michigan.

“The additional funding for Grand Valley State University reinforces our commitment to higher education in West Michigan,” Van Woerkom said. “The new higher education policy ensures that no school is left behind based on budget cuts.”

The Senate Higher Education Appropriation Subcommittee reported out House Bill 4396, which would create a new funding policy for higher education if signed into law. The policy would establish a \$4,000 floor for higher education funding at any of the fifteen state funded universities in Michigan.

Additional money to bring the per pupil funding up to \$4,000 was appropriated for Central Michigan University, Grand Valley State University, Oakland University and Saginaw Valley State University.

“I am well aware of Senator Van Woerkom’s strong advocacy on behalf of Grand Valley State University and of fair policy,” Mr. Mark Murray, President of Grand Valley State University, said. “I appreciate his advocacy with Senator Goschka and the members of the Senate Higher Education Appropriation Subcommittee, which led to the new higher education policy direction established today.”

The Higher Education budget passed today by the subcommittee ensures full funding of the Michigan Merit Award Scholarship Program at \$2,500. The budget also retains all of the current state financial aid programs for public and independent schools.

HB 4396 was reported out of the Senate Higher Education Appropriation Subcommittee, and will be considered by the full Senate Appropriation Committee as early as next week.